

# EPA Region III

## Office of Public Affairs

### EARLY BIRD HEADLINES

**Friday, September 21, 2012**

#### \*\*\* MORNING HOT LIST \*\*\*

#### **EPA regional official praises Carson's vision**

**PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE** It's federal "Pollution Prevention Week" along with the 50th anniversary of Rachel Carson's book "Silent Spring," and Shawn Garvin, regional administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, was in Springdale Borough Thursday to celebrate both. Mr. Garvin journeyed to Carson's childhood home along the Allegheny River and later visited Chatham University, her alma mater, to call attention to the philosophical links between the pollution prevention program and her writings. He said Carson was a visionary and a scientist who raised public awareness of the environmental and health risks of chemical pollution and the need for scientific research, emissions reductions and controls. Calling "Silent Spring" the "eye-opener that the American people needed," Mr. Garvin said it communicated to average citizens how their choices could have unintended consequences and harm the environment, birds and animals, and themselves. "But more importantly, they grasped that they had the ability to make or demand choices leading to a healthier environment," he said. "Carson demonstrated effectively that by communicating science we are able to create change through the choices we make, thereby benefiting both our environment and our society." Just as Carson used science and communication to drive change, Mr. Garvin said the EPA pollution prevention program has followed a similar path. An outgrowth of the 1990 federal Pollution Prevention Act, it has taken a lead role in communicating scientific and technological advances that spurred production strategies and resulted in reductions in hazardous waste and toxic chemical releases.

#### **At Philly gas conference, fortune, failures and, of course, Dimock**

**SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE** PHILADELPHIA - Big players in the Marcellus Shale industry met in a city far from Pennsylvania's drilling boom towns for the second year in a row on Thursday to project a future for abundant shale gas as a low-cost energy source and savior of the manufacturing sector that will benefit all corners of the commonwealth. Several years into the development of the state's shale gas resources, speakers at the Marcellus Shale Coalition's Shale Gas Insight conference talked less about getting the gas than using it: as a cleaner-burning transportation fuel, a feedstock for petrochemicals and an energy source for electricity and manufacturing. "I'm convinced that we are at the beginning of a new industrial revolution and that you are at the tip of the spear," Gov. Tom Corbett said in a morning speech, in which he aligned himself with the industry almost from his first words. "We, you, are creating jobs," he said. "We are building our future." Corbett characterized critics of the industry, who held a rally and protest march outside the Pennsylvania Convention Center, as the "unreasoning opposition." "Our opponents agree that we can land a rover on Mars," he said, "but they can't bring themselves to think that we can safely drill a mile into our own soil. "After all the predictions of disaster and the fearful warnings from people who have no understanding of the industry, Pennsylvania is reaping

a bounty." Across the street from the convention center, critics of the industry gathered to highlight homeowners who say they have been harmed by nearby natural gas drilling. They argued that natural gas has only a limited potential to reduce the production of greenhouse gasses and championed investment in renewable energy sources, like wind and solar. In a cramped room at the Arch Street Methodist Church, activists said the industry can afford to try to buy influence and a "green" image. ... "No one called the EPA into Dimock. The EPA called the EPA into Dimock," Krancer said of what he perceived as an overreach of authority. "They spent millions of dollars of Superfund response money to show us exactly what we already knew in Pennsylvania - that drilling wasn't contaminating water." Former DEP secretary Kathleen McGinty, speaking for the Obama campaign, said while the EPA found "no evidence" of contamination in Dimock, the industry and regulators should continue their focus on cementing and casing of wells and safety and environmental issues. Obama has an "all of the above" energy policy, Ms. McGinty said. She noted that under the president, the U.S. has reached record natural gas production, a 14-year high in domestic oil production and a 20-year low in oil imports.

## **Manchin-Toomey: Bill seeks to stop EPA bureaucratic overreach**

**BLUEFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH** WASHINGTON, D.C. — In spite of the perceived gridlock in Congress, U.S. Senator Joe Manchin III, D-W.Va., said he still believes in the American Dream, and that he and a growing number of other senators are “fed up with the over-reach” of the Environmental Protection Agency and other bureaucratic agencies that appear to be seeking to centralize the control of many businesses. “It’s not just the coal industry that is suffering from bureaucratic overreach,” Manchin said during a telephone interview from his office in Washington. “I’m hearing from representatives of the poultry industry, farming and several other industries that are being stymied by increased federal controls.” Manchin and U.S. Senator Pat Toomey, R-Pa., introduced the Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act (H.R. 2018) Thursday in the Senate — the same identical bill that U.S. Reps Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., and John Mica, R-Fla., got passed in the House. The bill seeks to return water quality permitting responsibilities back to state authorities. “We have support for this bill from all sides of the fence,” Manchin said. “When the founding fathers established this great country, I don’t think they had any idea that coal mining or farms would be regulated from Washington.” In a broader sense, Manchin said that shipping coal — the nation’s most prolific energy source — overseas as well as jobs, is counter to the American way of life. “It’s a sad day for America when we would ship all of our energy and our jobs out of the country,” he said. “This country wasn’t built on foreign energy. It was built on the energy we have here at home. We’re fighting in the Senate to make sure we use our energy sources here.” Rick Taylor, president of the Pocahontas Coal Association agreed with the idea that states should have the final say on water quality issues. “The state can manage those permits much better on an application by application basis,” Taylor said. “It’s much better than the cookie-cutter approach of one size fits all from Washington.” Manchin said that in spite of the challenges, he still believes that the system can work. “All we’re saying is, wait a minute. If we’re not doing the job right, tell us and we’ll do it right. Don’t just take it out of our hands altogether.”

## **Energy executives gather in Philadelphia for a Marcellus Shale Conference**

**PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER** Supporters of the Marcellus Shale industry on Thursday hailed Pennsylvania's natural-gas boom for launching a veritable economic revolution but cautioned that much work still needs to be done to convince skeptics that drilling can be conducted safely. At the Shale Gas Insight conference at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Marcellus Shale drilling was credited with generating \$11 billion in value-added economic impact in 2010, supporting 140,000 jobs, and contributing \$1 billion in state and local tax revenue. "Wherever we look, we see energy development creating multiplier effects that ripple through the U.S. economy," Jack Williams, the president of XTO Energy, the shale-gas subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corp., said in a keynote address. Williams called shale gas "an American success story." But as he addressed the audience of 1,600 people at the event sponsored by the Marcellus Shale Coalition, several hundred anti-drilling activists rallied outside with a contrasting point of view. Hoisting banners denouncing hydraulic fracturing - fracking - the protesters said the industry would only bring environmental and economic ruin to Pennsylvania. Some of the

protesters took issue with Gov. Corbett, who opened the conference on Thursday by calling opponents "unreasoning." "I think it's disingenuous for the governor to dismiss his opponents as a fringe element of naysayers," said David Masur, executive director of PennEnvironment, the advocacy group that took the opportunity Thursday to release a report denouncing the costs of "dirty drilling." The Convention Center's thick glass windows muffled the sound of the peaceful protesters, but a few speakers indoors noted their presence.

## **'Fracktivists' protest at shale-gas conference in Philly**

**PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER** Hundreds of self-proclaimed "fracktivists" rallied and marched through Center City on Thursday afternoon, protesting the Shale Gas Insights conference and urging governments at all levels to ban the natural-gas-drilling process known as fracking. Opponents say the hydraulic fracturing process pollutes local aquifers, causes serious health problems, and will result in net job loss. For more than two hours, speakers described what they called adverse effects of the process near their homes. Tammy Manning of Susquehanna County said the gases around her well recently tested at 82 percent methane. She said she was told to leave the water running all the time because if the gas built up, it could cause her house to explode. A spokesman for Energy in Depth, an industry-funded advocacy group, said that Manning lives in an area with historically high methane levels and that the problems on her property "are likely not attributed to Marcellus Shale development." Carol French, a dairy farmer who lives 1 1/2 miles from a natural-gas drilling site in Bradford County, Pa., said her water often comes out white and turns gelatinous after sitting out for a half-hour. While the drilling company was at work, French said, her daughter became extremely ill, with bloody stool and enlarged organs. Ray Kemble of Dimock, Pa., the town featured in the *Gasland* documentary, held up a jug that he said held water from his well that was the color of apple juice. According to government tests, he said, it is contaminated with weapons-grade uranium, arsenic, and other carcinogens. Natural-gas companies deny that such effects can be tied to their operations. Many cases are being litigated. As the speakers stepped up to the microphone, Shale Gas Insights attendees watched from above in a bay window of the Convention Center. "I hope they're scared," one protester said. At one point, the several hundred protesters looked up and raised middle fingers to their audience.

## **Gas Drilling Debated on Radio Times**

**NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO** WHYY Radio Times host Marty Moss-Coane spoke with a drilling critic and a drilling advocate on Thursday morning. If you missed it live, [you can listen here](#). Former DEP secretary under Gov. Rendell John Hanger talked about how drilling can be done safely. But writer and ecologist Sandra Steingraber says it's an industry that can't be regulated. This is never a conversation where the two opposing sides agree to disagree. But Marty steers these two well-informed guests through the often emotional dialogue, and has a real discussion on fracking, jobs, and the environmental consequences of drilling. Steingraber spoke at the Shale Gas Outrage rally on Thursday. John Hanger will be moderating a panel on natural gas powered cars at the Shale Gas Insight conference on Friday morning.

## **Environment Md. Says Fracking Not Worth the Cost**

**SOUTHERN MARYLAND ONLINE** BALTIMORE -- Allowing hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" in Maryland would cause water contamination, pollution and infrastructure damage, according to a report released Thursday by Environment Maryland. "The report we're releasing today documents the many dollars and cents, every cost to our families and communities," said Tommy Landers, director of Environment Maryland, at a press conference in Baltimore. Hydraulic fracturing uses the injection of water and chemicals deep underground to access natural gas shales. Western Maryland sits on a small portion of the Marcellus Shale, a 95,000 square mile deposit of natural gas that has been fracked in other states, such as West Virginia and Pennsylvania. At the Baltimore press conference, Rep. Shane Robinson, D-Montgomery, an opponent of fracking, announced plans to introduce legislation banning fracking in Maryland. "We need to focus on what is best for Marylanders, not what is best for boardrooms," Robinson said. The Environment Maryland study uses examples from other states to illustrate what the cost of drinking water contamination, groundwater cleanup, health problems, air pollution, road damage

and other issues could be. In Dimock, Pa., for example, contaminated groundwater ended up costing \$11.8 million dollars, according to the study. The study also uses roads in Pennsylvania as an example of how increased transportation can put stress on infrastructure. According to the report, some roads needed to be repaved every 7 or 8 years, as opposed to every 15 years. Pennsylvania has bonding requirements for the local roads affected by drilling, making the natural gas companies responsible for the cost of repairs.

## **Groups urge court to uphold EPA rebuke over W.Va. mine**

**CHARLESTON GAZETTE** MORGANTOWN, W.Va. -- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and nine other business groups say an appellate court should uphold a federal judge's ruling that the Environmental Protection Agency overreached when it retroactively vetoed water-pollution permits for one of West Virginia's largest mountaintop removal mines. The National Mining Association, National Association of Manufacturers and others argue EPA's revocation of Clean Water Act permits years after they were issued effectively prevents such permits from ever being considered final. That, they say, could have a chilling effect on new construction and economic development nationwide. "When project proponents are faced with such uncertainty ... they will make fewer investments," the chamber and its allies contend. EPA's action in West Virginia "dramatically changed the calculus for every entity that currently holds, or needs to acquire" such permits. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection also filed a friend-of-the-court brief Wednesday in the District of Columbia appellate court, urging affirmation of a March ruling in the EPA's ongoing battle with St. Louis-based Arch Coal over Spruce No. 1. Secretary Randy Huffman says EPA is undermining the state's power to regulate its own waters and to oversee mine operations. Its action "frustrates the state's regulatory program, and upsets the delicate balance of cooperative federalism" outlined in the Clean Water Act, he argues. Meanwhile, a third brief argues that EPA's action amounts to an illegal and unconstitutional "taking" of land. That argument is raised by The United Company of Bristol, Va., a privately held firm that invests in oil, natural gas, coal, real estate and golf courses.

## **Commentary: When enough is enough**

**MARYLAND GAZETTE** As Marylanders, we all want a clean and healthy Chesapeake Bay. As a lifelong resident of a small waterfront city at the head of the Bay, I know and appreciate the benefits of living along the country's largest estuary. Boating, fishing and crabbing all have become elements of the quintessential Maryland lifestyle, to say nothing of the role the Bay plays in our economy. There is no disagreement about what stands in the way of revitalizing the health of the Chesapeake. Scientists, environmental advocates and policy leaders agree that pollution from nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment runoff are factors in the health of the Bay. One source of this pollution is the stormwater that washes over paved and developed surfaces and then makes its way into our waterways and ultimately the Bay. Recognizing that this is a source of pollution that can be addressed through better engineering, the Environmental Protection Agency established stringent requirements under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, in keeping with the EPA's recent Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan mandate. These developments have been applauded by the environmental community at large as an audacious step toward improving water quality in our country, and in the Bay in particular. I share their zeal for a healthy Bay. On some level, we all do. But in these trying economic times, our love for the Bay and our desire to improve its health must be tempered by considering what we can afford when Marylanders face high unemployment, lower incomes and tighter household budgets. In Harford County, we estimate that the requirements created by the EPA's permitting process will cost approximately \$30 million per year over a three-year period. And that is just the first phase... An important part of governing is finding the right balance between our policy goals and the allocation of the resources available to us. Marylanders should realize the harsh reality that county officials across the state are coming to terms with: that the costs of implementing these mandated improvements will make the recent shift of teacher pension costs seem like a drop in the bucket. At what point do we collectively as Maryland taxpayers say enough?

---

# PENNSYLVANIA

## ***PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER***

Energy executives gather in Philadelphia for a Marcellus Shale Conference Supporters of the Marcellus Shale industry on Thursday hailed Pennsylvania's natural-gas boom for launching a veritable economic revolution but cautioned that much work still needs to be done to convince skeptics that drilling can be conducted safely. At the Shale Gas Insight conference at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Marcellus Shale drilling was credited with generating \$11 billion in value-added economic impact in 2010, supporting 140,000 jobs, and contributing \$1 billion in state and local tax revenue. "Wherever we look, we see energy development creating multiplier effects that ripple through the U.S. economy," Jack Williams, the president of XTO Energy, the shale-gas subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corp., said in a keynote address. Williams called shale gas "an American success story." But as he addressed the audience of 1,600 people at the event sponsored by the Marcellus Shale Coalition, several hundred anti-drilling activists rallied outside with a contrasting point of view. Hoisting banners denouncing hydraulic fracturing - fracking - the protesters said the industry would only bring environmental and economic ruin to Pennsylvania. Some of the protesters took issue with Gov. Corbett, who opened the conference on Thursday by calling opponents "unreasoning." "I think it's disingenuous for the governor to dismiss his opponents as a fringe element of naysayers," said David Masur, executive director of PennEnvironment, the advocacy group that took the opportunity Thursday to release a report denouncing the costs of "dirty drilling." The Convention Center's thick glass windows muffled the sound of the peaceful protesters, but a few speakers indoors noted their presence.

'Fracktivists' protest at shale-gas conference in Philly Hundreds of self-proclaimed "fracktivists" rallied and marched through Center City on Thursday afternoon, protesting the Shale Gas Insights conference and urging governments at all levels to ban the natural-gas-drilling process known as fracking. Opponents say the hydraulic fracturing process pollutes local aquifers, causes serious health problems, and will result in net job loss. For more than two hours, speakers described what they called adverse effects of the process near their homes. Tammy Manning of Susquehanna County said the gases around her well recently tested at 82 percent methane. She said she was told to leave the water running all the time because if the gas built up, it could cause her house to explode. A spokesman for Energy in Depth, an industry-funded advocacy group, said that Manning lives in an area with historically high methane levels and that the problems on her property "are likely not attributed to Marcellus Shale development." Carol French, a dairy farmer who lives 1 1/2 miles from a natural-gas drilling site in Bradford County, Pa., said her water often comes out white and turns gelatinous after sitting out for a half-hour. While the drilling company was at work, French said, her daughter became extremely ill, with bloody stool and enlarged organs. Ray Kemble of Dimock, Pa., the town featured in the *Gasland* documentary, held up a jug that he said held water from his well that was the color of apple juice. According to government tests, he said, it is contaminated with weapons-grade uranium, arsenic, and other carcinogens. Natural-gas companies deny that such effects can be tied to their operations. Many cases are being litigated. As the speakers stepped up to the microphone, Shale Gas Insights attendees watched from above in a bay window of the Convention Center. "I hope they're scared," one protester said. At one point, the several hundred protesters looked up and raised middle fingers to their audience.

High-speed-rail executives from around the world are meeting in Philadelphia this week High-speed-rail executives from around the world gather in Philadelphia this week, hoping to boost support for bullet trains in the United States, where momentum has been slowed by high costs and political disputes. The Obama administration's pledge to give 80 percent of Americans access to high-speed trains by 2035 seems increasingly unattainable. Instead, attention has shifted to the Northeast Corridor and California, where hopes for 220-mile-per-hour trains remain highest. "Maybe we can bring a little help to a vision that is perhaps not fully shared yet in the United States," said Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, director-general of the International Union of Railways in Paris and a leader of the Eighth World Congress on High-Speed Rail, which opens here Wednesday. "The wisest way to proceed is to get it running somewhere." That could be in California, where the legislature last week approved, by a single vote, the first \$8 billion for a Los Angeles-to-San Francisco high-speed rail line. It could be on the Washington-to-Boston corridor,

where Amtrak on Monday outlined a \$151 billion proposal for 220-mile-an-hour trains by 2030. Or it could be nowhere. The new national transportation funding act signed by President Obama on Friday contained no money for high-speed rail, although the administration had sought about \$8 billion a year. And Republican governors of Florida, Wisconsin and Ohio have spurned federal money for high-speed rail projects, sending the money back to Washington.

New rail stations, tunnel to airport eyed for Philadelphia If bullet trains someday race up and down the East Coast, they may not stop at 30th Street Station. Amtrak and city officials envision a new high-speed rail station on Market Street east of City Hall, linked by a 10-mile tunnel to Philadelphia International Airport, where a second new station would be built. The neoclassical 30th Street Station, opened in 1933 by the Pennsylvania Railroad and touted by *Trains Magazine* last year as "America's Finest Railroad Station," would become a hub for slower intercity trains and commuter service. Amtrak, which owns the station, says a new high-speed rail alignment beneath Center City would allow bullet trains to avoid speed-killing curves and space limits near 30th Street Station, helping meet a goal of 37-minute train trips between Philadelphia and New York by 2040. And a Market Street station beneath SEPTA's existing Market East Station, between 10th and 11th Streets, would mesh with the Nutter administration's efforts to boost redevelopment between City Hall and the Delaware River. Federal planners have scheduled a public meeting in Philadelphia for Monday as they study ways to improve rail service along the Northeast Corridor, and the future of 30th Street Station will be part of that analysis. "The current alignment is a problem, but there are a lot of places where a new station could go," said Stephen Gardner, Amtrak's vice president for Northeast Corridor infrastructure and investment development. "We need a dialogue with the city and the public and the business community." That conversation may get heated, especially with boosters of 30th Street Station, who believe it can be adapted as a high-speed hub at a small fraction of the \$3 billion or more that a new station and tunnels would cost to build.

Amtrak rolls out ambitious, high-speed service plan Amtrak officials Tuesday unveiled their vision for true high-speed service along the Northeast Corridor, with trains that could travel between Philadelphia and New York in 38 minutes. The proposed new high-speed service between Washington and Boston, with trains that could travel at 220 miles per hour, would require its own dedicated tracks and a new route north of New York away from the congested seacoast, said Amtrak president Joseph Boardman. The proposed high-speed system would cost about \$117 billion and take up to 30 years to complete, according to Amtrak's proposal. No specific plans were included on how to pay for the high-speed system. Amtrak officials hope to receive about \$4.7 billion a year for 25 years to make their dream a reality. Gov. Rendell, joining Amtrak and public transit officials at a news conference at 30th Street Station, said, "It sounds almost too good to be true, but it is true." He cited high-speed rail travel in Europe and Asia, where trains reach speeds of more than 200 m.p.h. "The time has come for it to be done in America," Rendell said. Building the new high-speed rail corridor, with bridges, tunnels, and stations, would create 40,000 full-time jobs per year over 25 years, Boardman said. Planners estimated that 120,000 new permanent jobs would result from improved economic productivity along the corridor.

'Open Air' blends city voices, intersecting searchlights The voices of Philadelphia - talking, reading, screeching, opining, proposing, promoting, warbling, singing, bleating - erupted Thursday night in *Open Air*, an unlikely canopy of 24 intersecting searchlight beams over the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, visible from 10 miles away. Crunched through the digital and robotic web of the Mexican-Canadian artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, the Philly vocals - recorded over a website and iPhone app, and performed live by ex-Roots beatboxer Rahzel and four-octave singer David Moss to kick off the three-week-long event - made their long-awaited debut with the shifting light formations. An app was to go live later in the evening to allow people to record their voices and have the shafts of lights respond almost immediately. The lights, emanating from searchlights on rooftops on the south side of the Parkway and on ground level along Pennsylvania Avenue to the north - a Best Western hotel there did not allow searchlights on its roof - took center stage from a crescent moon in the clear sky.

Astronomers latest to object to huge Parkway light show (Thursday) Having made his peace with the region's birders, the artist who will debut a huge light show Thursday night over the Benjamin Franklin Parkway is still

facing opposition from the astronomy community. Astronomers and dark-sky advocates, who contend that light pollution is not only obscuring the majesty of the starry sky, but also harming humans and wildlife by disrupting natural rhythms, have objected to the show. Running from 8 to 11 nightly through Oct. 14, the show, titled "Open Air," is to feature 24 spotlights along the parkway that will move and change intensity in response to verbal messages people record through an app developed for the exhibition.

### ***KYW NEWSRADIO PHILADELPHIA***

Shale Gas Conference in Center City Philadelphia Draws Protesters PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — Nearly 2,000 members of the natural gas industry are in Philadelphia for the Shale Gas Insight convention, and it's bringing opposition — with protesters demanding an end to fracking in Pennsylvania. Convention organizers say economic growth and environmental safety are among the topics being addressed. "We're committed to doing it right," says Steve Forde, the vice president of policy and communications for the Marcellus Shale Coalition. "We are committed to protecting our environment, first and foremost. There's not only a number of regulations but a number of best practices put into place by this industry to ensure we are operating in a sustainable way for the benefit of all Pennsylvanians. But outside the Pennsylvania Convention Center today, several hundred people gathered for a rally demanding an end to "fracking" — a technique that injects chemical-laced water at high pressure into the ground to extract oil and gas. Critics say it hurts the Earth and sickens its occupants.

### ***CBS LOCAL PITTSBURGH***

City Councilman Introduces Bill To Allow Limited Marcellus Shale Drilling PITTSBURGH (KDKA) — Pittsburgh City Council will soon look at new legislation aimed at regulating gas drilling in the city, and once again, the political debate is expected to be intense. "I don't think you can have a more simple-minded or corrosive position than this mayor's position on Marcellus Shale," said Pittsburgh City Councilman Patrick Dowd. "His only position over the last two and a half or so years has been remove the ban." The ban, passed by Council in 2010, is a ban on Marcellus Shale drilling throughout the city. But that could fall under the weight of a Supreme Court decision.

### ***PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE***

EPA regional official praises Carson's vision It's federal "Pollution Prevention Week" along with the 50th anniversary of Rachel Carson's book "Silent Spring," and Shawn Garvin, regional administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, was in Springdale Borough Thursday to celebrate both. Mr. Garvin journeyed to Carson's childhood home along the Allegheny River and later visited Chatham University, her alma mater, to call attention to the philosophical links between the pollution prevention program and her writings. He said Carson was a visionary and a scientist who raised public awareness of the environmental and health risks of chemical pollution and the need for scientific research, emissions reductions and controls. Calling "Silent Spring" the "eye-opener that the American people needed," Mr. Garvin said it communicated to average citizens how their choices could have unintended consequences and harm the environment, birds and animals, and themselves. "But more importantly, they grasped that they had the ability to make or demand choices leading to a healthier environment," he said. "Carson demonstrated effectively that by communicating science we are able to create change through the choices we make, thereby benefiting both our environment and our society." Just as Carson used science and communication to drive change, Mr. Garvin said the EPA pollution prevention program has followed a similar path. An outgrowth of the 1990 federal Pollution Prevention Act, it has taken a lead role in communicating scientific and technological advances that spurred production strategies and resulted in reductions in hazardous waste and toxic chemical releases.

Pa. Gov. Tom Corbett gives warm welcome to Marcellus Shale Coalition PHILADELPHIA -- When Pennsylvania's natural gas drillers met in this city last year, they were greeted by a crowd of protesters and a swift rebuke from the state's former governor. One year and one massive piece of state legislation later, the Marcellus Shale Coalition got a warm welcome from Gov. Tom Corbett and the decibel level -- of both the drillers and the anti-drilling activists drawn to the trade group's second gathering at the Philadelphia Convention Center -- is lower.

Not to say low: Opponents of hydraulic fracturing again convened outside with signs declaring that fracking has polluted air and waterways, though the crowd at the start of their counter-event appeared to be significantly smaller than last year's. Their presence still prompted tight security measures inside. Mr. Corbett and other speakers acknowledged that drillers continue to face public criticism over the safety of gas extraction, even as regulations are tightened. "We are advancing, even in the face of unreasoning opposition," Mr. Corbett told the ballroom crowd of industry representatives. "Our opponents agree that we can land a rover on Mars, but they can't bring themselves to think that we can safely drill a mile into our own soil." But the message from protesters -- described by last year's keynote speaker, Chesapeake Energy CEO Aubrey McClendon as "fractivists" -- and the accompanying response from companies and politicians has shifted with the continued development of Marcellus Shale drilling and the approval of a major overhaul to state environmental rules approved in February. That law, which is being challenged in state court, also enacted a per-well levy on drillers and created statewide zoning for their operations. Mr. Corbett, an ardent drilling supporter, said Pennsylvania "got that one right" in approving impact fees, which will begin providing money to local governments and statewide environmental programs later this year. "In addition to the tens of thousands of jobs, I'm here to say thank you, thank you to the industry that has added another \$200 million to the common good," Mr. Corbett said, who drew his own protesters during an appearance here Thursday evening. But he spent most of his remarks looking ahead, touting the promised jobs from the proposed Shell cracker plant and talking of a future where he can fill up his car with natural gas from a turnpike fueling station. While natural gas prices remain sunken, there was enthusiasm from several presenters on using the byproducts from natural gas, which are used in ethane plants like the Shell cracker to produce chemicals and plastics.

Editorial: A blight of dollars: Let's not trash the landscape for county revenue At this time of year, Allegheny County parks are decorated with tall, colorful structures. They're trees, and they are a park amenity, lining the trails, framing the picnic shelters and setting the boundaries of golf courses and athletic fields. It would be a shame if the living decorations were overtaken by tall structures of a different sort, a proliferation of cell phone towers. Yet County Executive Rich Fitzgerald proposed and county council approved a measure Tuesday to allow leasing for communications towers on as many as 61 pieces of county land, including 45 tracts in parks. The towers could bring annual payments of up to \$1.9 million and reduce dead spots in emergency dispatch systems, but to the possible detriment of nature. Although the county must find ways to cut expenses and increase income, opening park land to widespread use for cellular towers could detract from the parks' scenic beauty if officials aren't careful.

Blog: Marcellus Shale Coalition conference kicks off in Philly For the second year running, Pennsylvania's shale drillers are descending on Philadelphia for a conference to talk jobs, best practices, and the low energy prices that have resulted from gas extraction. Greeting them again will be protestors who say hydraulic fracturing continues to harm the state's air and waterways. Also like last year, Pipeline will be in attendance today to hear what Gov. Tom Corbett, surrogates for the presidential campaigns, and industry officials have to say about the state of natural gas drilling. Last year was the inaugural Shale Gas Insight conference, an event organized by the Marcellus Shale Coalition, the main industry trade group here. That event came as lawmakers were struggled to find common ground on a drilling assessment and rewrite of the state's environmental regulations. After a day of sessions on navigating state agencies and encouraging fleet conversion, former Democratic Gov. Ed Rendell stole the show by scolding the crowd for not enthusiastically embracing a state levy on their operations. This year's lineup doesn't include the former governor or anyone as likely to relay such a critical message (though the Philadelphia Inquirer suggests watching Mayor Michael Nutter's remarks on Friday morning). Today will kick off with Gov. Corbett -- who signed the final version of that fee and regulatory bill into law in February -- and surrogates for the two presidential campaigns. For the rest of the schedule, the convention agenda can be found here, and a press release on the Shale Gas Outrage counter-event is here.

### **SCRANTON TIMES-TRIBUNE**

At Philly gas conference, fortune, failures and, of course, Dimock PHILADELPHIA - Big players in the Marcellus Shale industry met in a city far from Pennsylvania's drilling boom towns for the second year in a row on Thursday to project a future for abundant shale gas as a low-cost energy source and savior of the manufacturing sector that



will benefit all corners of the commonwealth. Several years into the development of the state's shale gas resources, speakers at the Marcellus Shale Coalition's Shale Gas Insight conference talked less about getting the gas than using it: as a cleaner-burning transportation fuel, a feedstock for petrochemicals and an energy source for electricity and manufacturing. "I'm convinced that we are at the beginning of a new industrial revolution and that you are at the tip of the spear," Gov. Tom Corbett said in a morning speech, in which he aligned himself with the industry almost from his first words. "We, you, are creating jobs," he said. "We are building our future." Corbett characterized critics of the industry, who held a rally and protest march outside the Pennsylvania Convention Center, as the "unreasoning opposition." "Our opponents agree that we can land a rover on Mars," he said, "but they can't bring themselves to think that we can safely drill a mile into our own soil. "After all the predictions of disaster and the fearful warnings from people who have no understanding of the industry, Pennsylvania is reaping a bounty." Across the street from the convention center, critics of the industry gathered to highlight homeowners who say they have been harmed by nearby natural gas drilling. They argued that natural gas has only a limited potential to reduce the production of greenhouse gasses and championed investment in renewable energy sources, like wind and solar. In a cramped room at the Arch Street Methodist Church, activists said the industry can afford to try to buy influence and a "green" image. "They get to spin every little piece of information until it's unrecognizable," said Tracy Carluccio, deputy director of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. "It is being called clean, when actually it's the opposite. It's the same old fossil fuel." "Gasland" director Josh Fox reiterated the David and Goliath theme. "Gasland" chronicles the effects of natural gas drilling on the American landscape. "What we're talking about today is big business, across the street," he said. "The 1 percent of the 1 percent of the world coming to Pennsylvania and saying, we own it." In keynote addresses and small workshop sessions, the big businesses inside the conference center said they take seriously the need to inspire public confidence in their operations. Jack Williams, president of XTO Energy, a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil, told the nearly 2,000 attendees during his keynote speech that they need to be publicly engaged. "We need to acknowledge that for all the success of shale development, public confidence is not as strong as it could be," he said. "Some Americans continue to demonstrate a high level of concern about the impact of shale development activity. Our industry must take steps to strengthen public confidence."

At conference, UGI points to increase in customers In ten years, UGI Corp.'s gas utilities have added 50,000 customers, mostly people who have changed their heating system to natural gas. John Walsh, president and chief operating officer of UGI Corp., the natural gas utility serving Northeast Pennsylvania, talked about the residential demand for natural gas at the Marcellus Shale Coalition Shale Gas Insights conference in Philadelphia. "Demand for natural gas service has never been higher," he said. "We have a direct overlap of our service area and Marcellus Shale and view it as critical to our customers." Most residential customers are ditching heating oil, a move that saves the average household about \$1,200 annually in fuel costs, he said. Assuming a furnace costs about \$4,000 to \$5,000, the investment in new equipment could pay off in savings in four years. If a household does not have gas service, the cost of installing a lateral line from the street would add to the cost, however. Mr. Walsh said shale gas accounts for a total of 30 percent of the natural gas UGI delivers to customers about one third of that is directly from Pennsylvania. But he expects the percentage of Pennsylvania gas to increase to about a third over the next few years as the company sheds expired long-term contracts that lock the company into gas from the Gulf of Mexico. Energy intensive business are looking move into UGI's service area, he said, drawn by inexpensive power. Bill Liss Managing Director End Use Solutions said demand for natural gas will grow inexorably. Power generators will take the lead, but the industrial demand is increasing as the economy recovers. Use of natural gas as a transportation fuel, while still tiny, is poised to grow as fleet vehicles and heavy-duty vehicle switch to compressed natural gas or even liquefied natural gas.

### **WNEP-TV SCRANTON**

Grant to Fund Gas Training, Education Fifteen million dollars can go a long way. In Lycoming County, the money will be used to help train and educate people who intend to get jobs in the natural gas industry. The U.S. Department of Labor has awarded nearly \$15 million to Penn College's training program for the Marcellus Shale gas industry. The program is called ShaleNET and it helps train men and women for everything from the entry-level jobs to the gas jobs that require a degree. Class is in session for four men in Penn College's roustabout course

at the training center south of Williamsport. They are looking for work and chose Penn College's ShaleNET program to get the training they need. "I came out here to get a career, a daily process of long, long hours which I know would take care of my family," said Robert Lucas of Texas. Lucas came all the way from Texas to get in on the gas industry's ground floor. Thanks to a roughly \$15 million grant for the ShaleNET program, Penn College officials said it can become the standard for industry training not just in Pennsylvania or the Marcellus Shale, but nationwide. "The new ShaleNET U.S. grant will add to that credit certificates and credit associate degrees so we have a career path of credentials," said Assistant V.P. for Workforce Development at Penn College of Technology Larry Michael.

### ***LOCK HAVEN EXPRESS***

22 water withdrawals OK'd in area LOCK HAVEN The Susquehanna River Basin Commission on Thursday approved 22 water withdrawal requests, mostly for the Marcellus Shale gas industry, including several in this region. Among the 22, one approval was given for a site in Clinton County, one in Centre County, and three in Lycoming County. Six were tabled for further review. In Clinton County, Enerplus Resources (USA) Corp. was given approval to withdraw water from the West Branch of the Susquehanna River in East Keating Township. It grants peak withdrawal of four million gallons per day for Winner 1 Well Pad, according to the SRBC ([www.srbc.net](http://www.srbc.net).)

### ***FOREST HILLS - REGENT SQUARE PATCH***

Penn State Extension to Host Marcellus Shale Program Oct. 2 Penn State Extension will host "Understanding Shale Gas Exploration & Development" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 2, at the Allegheny County Extension Office, 400 North Lexington St., third floor, in Point Breeze. The goal of the program is to provide attendees with a greater understanding of the impacts of shale gas exploration on leasing, water quality and the community, as well as needs that homeowners and community members should address if they hold property in shale gas areas. Scheduled speakers include Penn State Extension educators Jon Laughner and Dana Rizzo, as well as Agricultural Law Resource & Reference Center Director Ross Pifer. The discussion will include the current and future outlook for shale development, related water issues, and legal impacts on shale development. A question-and-answer period will follow the discussion. This program is for educational purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Those with legal questions or issues should consult an attorney. "Understanding Shale Gas Exploration & Development" is free and open to the public. Due to limited space, pre-registration is required by calling 412-473-2540.

### ***JOHNSTOWN TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT***

Report: Fracking will affect economy, environment JOHNSTOWN — Standing against the backdrop of the 2012 Pennsylvania River of the Year, a representative of PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center discussed her organization's concerns about how extracting natural gas from Marcellus Shale can impact water quality and people's health. Field associate Mary Kate Ranii said the organization is calling for a moratorium on the process following the release of a report called "The Costs of Fracking," sponsored by PennEnvironment, Environment America and the Frontier Group. In it, the organizations contend the fracking process, which involves breaking shale with pressurized, chemically treated water, negatively impacts the environment and the long-term economy of regions when the drilling takes place. The local release of the study occurred Thursday at downtown Johnstown's Point Park, where the Stonycreek and Little Conemaugh rivers meet to form the Conemaugh. The once orange-tinted Stonycreek was polluted by acid mine drainage to the point where aquatic life was all but nonexistent. Now, following decades of revitalization, it is a thriving, award-winning waterway used for recreation. PennEnvironment hopes to avoid seeing fracking cause similar problems with rivers, streams and lakes. "Gas, like coal and like oil, is a boom-and-bust cycle," Ranii said. "During the boom, there's the illusion of prosperity, but after the boom ends and the gas is all tapped, counties are left paying the real price, which is health impact and ruined roads and ruined drinking water." Ranii was joined by area residents who spoke out against fracking, including Carl Whipkey of New Florence, Kurt Limbach of Bolivar and Rev. William Thwing, pastor of the United Church of Christ in Johnstown's Moxham section.

## **ALTOONA MIRROR**

Group talks Marcellus impact JOHNSTOWN - As state politicians and titans from the Marcellus Shale industry gathered in Philadelphia for a two-day industry conference, a considerably smaller group met in a park along the banks of the Conemaugh and Little Conemaugh rivers in Johnstown. Despite the lack of fanfare, those gathered shared their experiences with the Marcellus industry and discussed the "Dollars and Cents Costs of Drilling," warning of the potential fallout across the commonwealth. "Drilling waste water, often laced with toxic and radioactive materials, has contaminated drinking water from here in Pennsylvania all the way through Mexico," said Mary Kate Ranii, PennEnvironment Western Pennsylvania field associate. "Additional damage includes spills of frack fluid chemicals, methane in residential wells, nearby families getting sick after shale gas extraction begins, air pollution, landscapes turned into industrial zones and even earthquakes." David Yoxthimer, extension associate at the Penn State Marcellus Center for Outreach and Research, said industry standards contradict the group's findings, noting gas companies have invested heavily in the state and are responsible for fixing water quality issues surrounding well sites in addition to frequently testing water supplies before drilling. Any water quality issues in public streams fall under the Department of Environmental Protection's jurisdiction. If a violation occurs, he said, DEP ensures the gas companies are responsible for restoring the quality of water to pre-drilling standards.

## **ERIE TIMES NEWS**

Archery deer hunt to be held at Presque Isle Archery deer hunting will be allowed Sept. 29 through Nov. 12 and Dec. 26 through Jan. 12 at Presque Isle State Park. The park will remain open to the public during those times, officials said. Advance registration isn't required for hunters, but they must have valid Pennsylvania hunting and archery licenses, Presque Isle officials said.

## **STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA**

Shale Gas Insight: Other Companies Considering A PA Ethane Cracker Too Two bits of news from Community and Economic Development Secretary C. Alan Walker, who spoke on a morning panel at the Marcellus Shale Coalition's "Shale Gas Insight" conference: The first: Shell isn't the only company weighing whether or not to build an ethane cracker in western Pennsylvania. Walker was coy about this issue, saying the conversations he's had with energy companies are confidential, but he did tell reporters the corporations involved are "all major companies that have the resources to do it." "Shell is the guinea pig," Walker said. "If [the potential Beaver County facility] is successful you're going to see more activity" along the Ohio River corridor. Walker said the Corbett Administration would work to provide the same sort of tax breaks Shell received, but added, "we're not at that stage yet." Shell benefited from a 15-year tax amnesty window, as well as a production tax credit that may top \$1.7 billion. The company has yet to decide whether or not to move forward with the plant. Second: Pennsylvania has won a \$15 million federal grant for workforce development. The money will be used to train Pennsylvanians for drilling jobs, and comes from the Department of Labor. Here are more details from Senator Bob Casey's office:

Shale Gas Outrage: Organizers See Civil Disobedience on the Horizon Hundreds of protestors are rallying in the street outside the Pennsylvania Convention Center today. Organizers of "Shale Gas Outrage" say gas drilling is polluting water wells, the air, and destroying the pristine landscape of rural Pennsylvania. The event began with a song by gospel singer Rhetta Morgan. Later Maya van Rossum, from the Delaware Riverkeeper Network took the stage, telling the crowd that environmentalists like her are keeping up the pressure to ban gas drilling. "Now the gas drillers, they want us to believe that drilling and fracking is inevitable and we should just sit back and take it," said van Rossum. "Well we're here today to say 'No Fracking Way!' We are taking action every single day to protect our communities from drilling and fracking whether that means keeping the drillers out or kicking them out if they've already gotten a foothold." Van Rossum is a vocal critic of gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin, where a moratorium on gas development continues. Author and climate change activist Bill McKibben said the growing grassroots movement is up against a lot of money and will have to do more than rally to make an impact.

## **ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)**

Corbett: Pa. drilling opponents are 'unreasoning' PHILADELPHIA - Gov. Tom Corbett on Thursday attacked anti-drilling activists as the "unreasoning opposition" who accept the nation can land a space vehicle on Mars but don't believe energy companies can safely harvest gas a mile under the earth's surface. Corbett, speaking Thursday at a Marcellus Shale industry conference in Philadelphia, touted the economic benefits of shale-gas development and hailed drillers as the "tip of the spear" of a new industrial revolution. "After all the predictions of disaster and the fearful warnings from people with no understanding of the industry, Pennsylvania is reaping a bounty," said the Republican governor. As Corbett spoke, a few hundred anti-drilling activists protested outside the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Opponents portray shale-gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing, the technique that's allowed drillers to extract natural gas from shale deposits deep underground, as bad for the environment and a danger to public health. "Please open your eyes. We're destroying the precious resources that God has provided us with to sustain life," said protester Tammy Manning, of Franklin Forks, Pa., who has filed a lawsuit alleging a gas driller contaminated her water well. The driller denies responsibility. The second annual Shale Gas Insight conference drew about 1,600 people at a time of tremendous change for the drilling industry. Companies are shifting rigs to drill for natural gas liquids and oil in the face of historically low natural gas prices. They're adjusting to a major overhaul of state drilling regulations and recently paid a first-ever state "impact fee" of more than \$200 million. And they are still struggling to gain wide public acceptance. Addressing the conference, XTO Energy President Jack Williams acknowledged that "some Americans continue to demonstrate a high level of concern about the impact of shale development activity on their communities and the environment. ... Our industry must take steps to strengthen public confidence." Still, Williams hailed a "golden age of gas" and said it is spurring a revival of U.S. manufacturing. In Pennsylvania, Shell Oil Co. has proposed a multibillion-dollar petrochemical plant in western Pennsylvania that, with the help of state tax credits, would convert the bountiful Marcellus gas into more profitable chemicals such as ethylene, which is used to make plastics, tires, antifreeze and other products. In Philadelphia, a Sunoco oil refinery destined for closure will instead remain open and expand its use of shale gas.

Behind the music, Farm Aid works to keep family farmers on their land, promote farm-fresh food HARRISBURG, Pa. — Farm Aid is synonymous with star-studded rock concerts, like the one expected to draw 30,000 people to southeastern Pennsylvania on Saturday. But the real work of the organization happens mostly behind the scenes across rural America every day. Singer-songwriter Willie Nelson, president and co-founder of Farm Aid, believes the group's commitment to protecting farmland puts it on "the right side of history." "Everything helps or hurts, and I think Farm Aid has helped," Nelson said in a telephone interview Wednesday from Minnesota, where he was scheduled to perform in Mankato. With more than \$40 million raised through the musical performances and private contributions since the first Farm Aid concert in 1985, the organization works to keep family farmers on their land by awarding modest cash grants to groups that help small- and medium-size farms across the country. Farm Aid awarded nearly \$308,000 to 42 organizations last year. "Willie is the one who makes all the decisions on where the grants go," said Carolyn Mugar, the organization's executive director.

Three Mile Island nuclear plant automatically shuts down MIDDLETOWN, Pa. -- A malfunctioning pump caused an automatic shutdown of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant near Harrisburg on Thursday, the second such event in as many months. Plant officials and government regulators said the shutdown at the plant, where a partial meltdown of a reactor in 1979 is considered the worst commercial nuclear power plant accident in U.S. history, posed no threat to public health or safety. The shutdown occurred shortly after 2:15 p.m. when the failure of a coolant pump tripped the computerized system that shuts down the reactor in the event of any safety-related problems. Once the reactor has cooled down enough, plant workers will be able to access the containment building and troubleshoot the problem, Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman Neil Sheehan said. The plant is named after the island where it's located in the Susquehanna River, south of Harrisburg.

---

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

### **WASHINGTON POST**

Unlikely coalitions clash over extension of tax credits for wind energy The wind power industry boasts enviable

political assets in its fight to preserve a prized tax benefit. Republican and Democratic governors trumpet the benefits of wind energy; industry officials can identify manufacturing jobs at risk in crucial presidential election swing states if the tax credit expires; and a phalanx of lobbyists and consultants are working to ensure it stays in place for at least one more year. But now an unusual coalition is fighting the extension, including tea party followers, GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney and the electric utility most closely associated with President Obama. The result is an unpredictable and intense lobbying fight. “This is a pivotal moment for that industry,” said David G. Victor, an international relations professor at the University of California at San Diego and an energy expert. The battle over the wind production tax credit — which can cut the cost of developing a wind project by nearly a third — centers on a single question: Is the wind industry mature enough to survive without the tax break it first received 20 years ago, or does it need a lifeline for a bit longer?

---

## DELAWARE

### ***DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE***

Silver Lake buffers a top priority in Rehoboth Rehoboth Beach — Rehoboth Beach officials are set take action to protect the city's three fresh-water lakes. The city commissioners and planning commission will move forward with three code changes proposed by the planners and submit a 16-page report to state agencies for review by the Preliminary Land Use Service. Mayor Sam Cooper said the most important code change is establishing a 10-foot no-build buffer from the lakes' edge for all properties within the city limits. Cooper said this change is critical because the city has a temporary moratorium preventing building within 15 feet of the lakes, due to end in February. “The sooner we clear that moratorium, the better,” he said. Cooper said the moratorium was a way to buy time until a solution could be found; now that a solution has been found, the city should lift the moratorium. Members of the planning commission and the city commissioners also plan establish a site-plan review process for any residential structure built or substantially renovated whose foundation is within 25 feet of the lakes' edge. Officials said it could be based on a site plan review ordinance already on the books for large residential and commercial developments. The last potential change is prohibiting the installation of yard watering systems within 10 feet of the lakes' edge. Cooper said this change might be more difficult because enforcing it could be problematic. These three recommendations were among the planning commission's recommendations for improving the health of the three lakes within the city: Silver Lake, Lake Comegys and Lake Gerar. Much of the attention of the report was focused on Silver Lake; Lake Comegys has only a small connection with the city and Lake Gerar is already protected by buffers and aerators installed several years ago. The commission's report also focuses on educating the public on how public activity affects the lakes. Planning commission Chairman Preston Littleton said, “They need to know about how people who live all the way across town are responsible for the health of that lake.”

---

## WEST VIRGINIA

### ***CHARLESTON GAZETTE***

County commits to 20 natural gas-powered vehicles CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Members of the Kanawha County Commission approved a letter of intent Thursday to buy 20 natural gas-powered vehicles if a private firm will build a natural gas filling station. For six months, county officials have been working with the Charleston Area Alliance and other local agencies on a plan to bring a natural gas-powered vehicle fleet to the area. County officials believe the vast Marcellus Shale gas deposits will soon provide a huge supply of cheap natural gas to help ease the bite from high petroleum prices, and create a local industry tapping, refining and pumping the gas and converting vehicles to run on the fuel source. The Kanawha Valley Regional Transit Authority has already agreed to buy eight

natural gas-powered buses, which are expected to be delivered next year. The Kanawha County Commission also has a new SUV that runs on either natural gas or gasoline. The next step is to get a natural gas filling station, which will probably be located at the KRT bus depot in Charleston. County officials and members of the Charleston Area Alliance are currently lining up potential customers for the station to make it worthwhile for an entrepreneur to invest in the facility. Matt Thomas, special project coordinator for the Kanawha County Commission, said the Alliance already has a letter of intent from Mountaineer Gas Co. to buy three natural gas-powered vehicles if a station is built. The Charleston Sanitary Board is thinking about buying four vehicles, Yeager Airport is discussing the purchase of three, and Charleston Newspapers is considering five to eight natural gas-powered vehicles.

Romney coal supply figures called too optimistic CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- In new campaign ads criticizing the Obama administration's coal policies, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney cites an estimate of the nation's remaining coal reserves that has been increasingly questioned as overly optimistic. One of two new Romney ads includes footage of his visit last month to an Ohio coal mine, with a voiceover of a Romney speech where he says, "We have 250 years of coal, why wouldn't we use it?" Various industry publications have cited that same estimate, saying, "The United States has more than a 250-year-supply of coal if it continues using coal at the same rate at which it uses coal today." But in a major report five years ago, the National Academy of Sciences concluded that the best estimate it could confirm was that U.S. coal reserves would last less than half that long. "The United States is endowed with a vast amount of coal," said the report, written by a panel of geologists, engineers and industry officials for the National Academy's National Research Council. "Despite significant uncertainties in generating reliable estimates of the nation's coal resources and reserves, there are sufficient economically mineable reserves to meet anticipated needs through 2030," said the report, written at the request of the late Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va.

Groups urge court to uphold EPA rebuke over W.Va. mine MORGANTOWN, W.Va. -- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and nine other business groups say an appellate court should uphold a federal judge's ruling that the Environmental Protection Agency overreached when it retroactively vetoed water-pollution permits for one of West Virginia's largest mountaintop removal mines. The National Mining Association, National Association of Manufacturers and others argue EPA's revocation of Clean Water Act permits years after they were issued effectively prevents such permits from ever being considered final. That, they say, could have a chilling effect on new construction and economic development nationwide. "When project proponents are faced with such uncertainty ... they will make fewer investments," the chamber and its allies contend. EPA's action in West Virginia "dramatically changed the calculus for every entity that currently holds, or needs to acquire" such permits. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection also filed a friend-of-the-court brief Wednesday in the District of Columbia appellate court, urging affirmation of a March ruling in the EPA's ongoing battle with St. Louis-based Arch Coal over Spruce No. 1. Secretary Randy Huffman says EPA is undermining the state's power to regulate its own waters and to oversee mine operations. Its action "frustrates the state's regulatory program, and upsets the delicate balance of cooperative federalism" outlined in the Clean Water Act, he argues. Meanwhile, a third brief argues that EPA's action amounts to an illegal and unconstitutional "taking" of land. That argument is raised by The United Company of Bristol, Va., a privately held firm that invests in oil, natural gas, coal, real estate and golf courses.

Utilities agree to tougher reliability rules CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- West Virginia's two largest electricity suppliers have agreed to meet more stringent reliability standards being pushed by staff and consumer advocates at the state Public Service Commission, according to a deal made public Thursday. Subsidiaries of FirstEnergy and American Electric Power had originally proposed much weaker versions of the first-ever electrical system reliability targets for how utilities should minimize power outages and quickly get electricity back on for their customers. Under a proposed settlement, though, West Virginia utilities would have more time -- until 2014 -- to comply with the standards. PSC staff and consumer advocates had wanted the rules to apply immediately, and utilities had wanted then deferred until 2016 or 2018. "In a settlement, you never get everything you'd like to achieve," said Byron Harris, chief of the PSC's consumer advocate division. "But it's a good outcome. This settlement should cause utilities to improve their reliability."

DEP contractor charged in false billing scheme CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Federal authorities have accused a Taylor County contractor in a scheme that bilked about \$120,000 from the state Department of Environmental Protection in falsely billed work on abandoned coal mines. A grand jury handed down a 10-count indictment Wednesday against Spencer Charles Wooddell, 45, of Flemington for allegedly manipulating his employees' time sheets and submitting false invoices to DEP on two contracting jobs. The company he worked for, Cowgirl UP Inc., is also named in the indictment. The two defendants each face charges of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and nine counts of frauds and swindles. In 2007 and again in 2011, DEP's office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation awarded contracts to Cowgirl UP Inc., after the company won out on bids for work on reclaimed mine land. The DEP contracts capped the company's maximum expenditure for the first job at \$25,000 and at \$50,000 for the second. Once the work was completed, Wooddell, as field manager, was responsible for submitting invoices for the number of hours the company's employees worked and the amount of materials they used for the jobs.

House approves legislation to improve storm response CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The U.S. House of Representatives has approved new legislation sponsored by Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va. to require that the Federal Emergency Management Agency improve how it evaluates individual assistance requests from people affected by serious storms. On Wednesday, the White House approved West Virginia's appeal to provide individual assistance for people who were hardest hit by the June 29 derecho windstorms in Charleston and other areas of the state. Thousands of West Virginians were without power for days. Many lost food stored in their refrigerators and freezers and suffered damages to their homes. After the White House action Wednesday, House members approved the legislation.

### **CHARLESTON DAILY MAIL**

Editorial; Charleston reconsiders its development options GIVE Charleston credit. The city doesn't just drift; city leaders think ahead - to solve problems, anticipate needs, and improve the community for everyone who uses it. As part of its effort to come up with a new comprehensive plan and a new downtown revitalization plan, the city proposes, among other things:

### **BLUEFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH**

Manchin-Toomey: Bill seeks to stop EPA bureaucratic overreach WASHINGTON, D.C. — In spite of the perceived gridlock in Congress, U.S. Senator Joe Manchin III, D-W.Va., said he still believes in the American Dream, and that he and a growing number of other senators are “fed up with the over-reach” of the Environmental Protection Agency and other bureaucratic agencies that appear to be seeking to centralize the control of many businesses.

“It’s not just the coal industry that is suffering from bureaucratic overreach,” Manchin said during a telephone interview from his office in Washington. “I’m hearing from representatives of the poultry industry, farming and several other industries that are being stymied by increased federal controls.” Manchin and U.S. Senator Pat Toomey, R-Pa., introduced the Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act (H.R. 2018) Thursday in the Senate — the same identical bill that U.S. Reps Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., and John Mica, R-Fla., got passed in the House. The bill seeks to return water quality permitting responsibilities back to state authorities. “We have support for this bill from all sides of the fence,” Manchin said. “When the founding fathers established this great country, I don’t think they had any idea that coal mining or farms would be regulated from Washington.” In a broader sense, Manchin said that shipping coal — the nation’s most prolific energy source — overseas as well as jobs, is counter to the American way of life. “It’s a sad day for America when we would ship all of our energy and our jobs out of the country,” he said. “This country wasn’t built on foreign energy. It was built on the energy we have here at home. We’re fighting in the Senate to make sure we use our energy sources here.” Rick Taylor, president of the Pocahontas Coal Association agreed with the idea that states should have the final say on water quality issues. “The state can manage those permits much better on an application by application basis,” Taylor said. “It’s much better than the cookie-cutter approach of one size fits all from Washington.” Manchin said that in spite of the challenges, he still believes that the system can work. “All we’re saying is, wait a minute. If we’re not doing the job right, tell us and we’ll do it right. Don’t just take it out of our hands altogether.”

Raney: Coal bill critical (Thursday) BLUEFIELD — The West Virginia coalfields continue to receive bad news, but the head of the state's largest coal advocacy group — the West Virginia Coal Association — hopes that Congress will act on one bill that is up for a vote in the House of Representatives on Friday and another that is scheduled to be introduced today in the Senate. Bill Raney, president of the West Virginia Coal Association said the "Coal Miner Employment and Domestic Energy Infrastructure Protection Act," H.R. 3409, is "a critical bill," in terms saving the jobs of coal miners. "It's really one bill with five components," Raney said "The components of the bill seek to curtail the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to establish policy instead of following the law. It also seeks to put controls on the Office of Surface Mining." Raney said that U.S. Senator Joe Manchin III, D-W.Va., and U.S. Senator Pat Toomey, R-Pa., are planning to introduce a Senate bill today that is close to the H. R. 2018, a bill that would give states the right to set water quality standards. "That bill would reduce the involvement of the EPA in water quality matters," Raney said. "Both of these bills are very, very important," Raney said. "These are critical bills." The National Mining Association put out a call to its members nationally to contact their federal representatives, and urge them to support H.R. 3409. "We need American coal to power the plants that power our nation," according to the NMA press release. Raney said that coal remains the nation's most plentiful source of energy. "Every year, we get better and better at mining coal without leaving a lasting impact on the environment and we get better at burning coal to produce energy with less harmful emissions," Raney said. "We've got the coal in this country that other countries want. We need to protect our coal mining jobs."

Cobalt the coal mining dog continues to improve ANAWALT — Cobalt, the coal mining dog is continuing to make progress on returning to health, but his caretaker, Linda Woolridge said that she doesn't think he will be able to go back to the mines. "He is spending time in the outside kennel we have for him," Woolridge said. "He likes to run and jump, but it wouldn't be good for him to do that in the mines. I don't think that would be safe for him. It might put him right back to where he was." Woolridge said that Saturday will mark the third full week that Cobalt has been back home after undergoing back surgery in Blacksburg, Va. "He's getting stronger every day," she said. "He's pulling me around now."

### **ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.)**

US Chamber, others ask appeals court to uphold ruling against EPA in veto of W.Va. mine permit  
MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and nine other business groups say an appellate court should uphold a federal judge's ruling that the Environmental Protection Agency overreached when it retroactively vetoed water-pollution permits for one of West Virginia's largest mountaintop removal mines. The National Mining Association, National Association of Manufacturers and others argue EPA's revocation of Clean Water Act permits years after they were issued effectively prevents such permits from ever being considered final. That, they say, could have a chilling effect on new construction and economic development nationwide. "When project proponents are faced with such uncertainty ... they will make fewer investments," the chamber and its allies contend. EPA's action in West Virginia "dramatically changed the calculus for every entity that currently holds, or needs to acquire" such permits.

---

## MARYLAND

### **BALTIMORE SUN**

PARK(ing) Day swaps cars for open space It's PARK(ing) Day again, that annual global happening where teams of artists, architects and others take over curbside parking spaces for a day and convert them into open-air lounges, picnic areas and pocket parks. First launched in 2005 in San Francisco by Rebar, an art and design studio there, it's spread and grown. Per the event's slogan, "Reclaim Your City," the aim is to get people thinking about alternatives to the miles and miles of pavement laid to serve our car culture. Last year there were 975 "parks" created in 162 cities in 35 countries, including right here in Baltimore. This year, organizers say there'll be 15 or more spaces set



up in the city and its suburbs.

'Huge drop' in funding for community development In Baltimore and elsewhere, cuts fuel anxiety over fate of revitalization efforts. The City Arts Apartments are full of artists who live and work in the Baltimore complex, built on what long had been a vacant lot in a very vacant neighborhood. But a sudden gap in its development financing almost kept the project from getting off the ground.

### ***MARYLAND GAZETTE***

Commentary: When enough is enough As Marylanders, we all want a clean and healthy Chesapeake Bay. As a lifelong resident of a small waterfront city at the head of the Bay, I know and appreciate the benefits of living along the country's largest estuary. Boating, fishing and crabbing all have become elements of the quintessential Maryland lifestyle, to say nothing of the role the Bay plays in our economy. There is no disagreement about what stands in the way of revitalizing the health of the Chesapeake. Scientists, environmental advocates and policy leaders agree that pollution from nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment runoff are factors in the health of the Bay. One source of this pollution is the stormwater that washes over paved and developed surfaces and then makes its way into our waterways and ultimately the Bay. Recognizing that this is a source of pollution that can be addressed through better engineering, the Environmental Protection Agency established stringent requirements under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, in keeping with the EPA's recent Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan mandate. These developments have been applauded by the environmental community at large as an audacious step toward improving water quality in our country, and in the Bay in particular. I share their zeal for a healthy Bay. On some level, we all do. But in these trying economic times, our love for the Bay and our desire to improve its health must be tempered by considering what we can afford when Marylanders face high unemployment, lower incomes and tighter household budgets. In Harford County, we estimate that the requirements created by the EPA's permitting process will cost approximately \$30 million per year over a three-year period. And that is just the first phase... An important part of governing is finding the right balance between our policy goals and the allocation of the resources available to us. Marylanders should realize the harsh reality that county officials across the state are coming to terms with: that the costs of implementing these mandated improvements will make the recent shift of teacher pension costs seem like a drop in the bucket. At what point do we collectively as Maryland taxpayers say enough?

### ***SOUTHERN MARYLAND ONLINE***

Environment Md. Says Fracking Not Worth the Cost BALTIMORE -- Allowing hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" in Maryland would cause water contamination, pollution and infrastructure damage, according to a report released Thursday by Environment Maryland. "The report we're releasing today documents the many dollars and cents, every cost to our families and communities," said Tommy Landers, director of Environment Maryland, at a press conference in Baltimore. Hydraulic fracturing uses the injection of water and chemicals deep underground to access natural gas shales. Western Maryland sits on a small portion of the Marcellus Shale, a 95,000 square mile deposit of natural gas that has been fracked in other states, such as West Virginia and Pennsylvania. At the Baltimore press conference, Rep. Shane Robinson, D-Montgomery, an opponent of fracking, announced plans to introduce legislation banning fracking in Maryland. "We need to focus on what is best for Marylanders, not what is best for boardrooms," Robinson said. The Environment Maryland study uses examples from other states to illustrate what the cost of drinking water contamination, groundwater cleanup, health problems, air pollution, road damage and other issues could be. In Dimock, Pa., for example, contaminated groundwater ended up costing \$11.8 million dollars, according to the study. The study also uses roads in Pennsylvania as an example of how increased transportation can put stress on infrastructure. According to the report, some roads needed to be repaved every 7 or 8 years, as opposed to every 15 years. Pennsylvania has bonding requirements for the local roads affected by drilling, making the natural gas companies responsible for the cost of repairs.

---

# VIRGINIA

## ***NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS***

Residents want more access to Plum Tree Island POQUOSON — A small group of residents from Poquoson and York gathered last week to share their vision for Plum Tree Island National Wildlife Refuge with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The majority of the residents at the meeting wanted to see more public access to the island. The only public use currently allowed is waterfowl hunting on Cow Island. The rest of the island is closed to the public. Andy Hoffman, manager of the Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex which includes Plum Tree Island, said one of the biggest obstacles limiting public use of the refuge is unexploded ordnance left from when the U.S. Air Force operated the property as a bombing range from 1917-1959. Plum Tree Island was established as a refuge in 1972. Hoffman said the Army Corps of Engineers is currently conducting a remedial investigation to determine the extent of ordnance on the island. Hoffman said some ordnance may not be removed because any attempt to remove it could destroy the habitat.

## ***CHARLOTTESVILLE DAILY PROGRESS***

Low turnout for public meeting on South Fork dredging A proposal to dredge portions of the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir cleared another hurdle in an evaluation process Thursday as the Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority held a meeting to receive feedback. However, only three members of the public spoke. “We don’t have a lot of people here tonight,” said Thomas L. Frederick Jr. the executive director of the RWSA. The RWSA Board of Directors has set aside \$3.5 million in its capital improvement budget for dredging the reservoir but opted to leave details of how that would be done to potential bidders. “We solicited proposals earlier this year under the Public Private Educational Facilities and Infrastructure Act,” Frederick said. Under the act, firms were encouraged to submit creative proposals, rather than follow a specific way to dredge the reservoir. “During the discussions and deliberations that our board had regarding this particular project, a number of citizens who were in support of dredging expressed concerns that they wanted a more open process,” Frederick said. The basic requirements were that proposals had to remove sediment from three segments of the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir identified in a bathymetric study conducted by the firm HDR in 2010. Three proposals were received, but only a proposal from Orion Marine Construction was deemed to meet all the qualifications. Under their plan, they would collect the full \$3.5 million and would transport dredged material through pipes to nearby Panorama Farm for dewatering. Orion would be responsible for establishing a dewatering area and for obtaining any required permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Albemarle resident Tom Jones, who served on a 2009 task force that explored reasons to dredge the reservoir, said he supported dredging for recreational uses. “I’m a frequent user of the reservoir,” he said. “I’m a rower and a kayaker and get out there a lot.” Jones said the reservoir is getting increasingly shallow as sediment continues to pour in from its almost 260 square-mile watershed. Since the reservoir was completed in 1966, it has lost significant storage capacity each year through sedimentation. “Places that I could row ... are no longer navigable,” Jones said. “They are either a few inches of water or already mud and filled with debris.”

## ***FREDERICKSBURG FREELANCE STAR***

River bacteria remains mystery Officials haven’t figured out what’s causing contamination at Fairview Beach, but they are rallying the troops to try to pinpoint the problem. Yesterday, 16 local and state government representatives, along with four people from the Fairview Beach Residents Association, sat around a table at the village’s fire house. They talked for almost 3 hours about water samples and swimming advisories that have been posted regularly since 2004, warning people to stay out of the Potomac River at the King George County beach because of high levels of bacteria. The group also heard about the efforts of Fairview Beach residents Herb Cover and Janet Harrover, who took 179 water samples this swimming season and last. Cover said he was tired of having the same conversation with people outside the beach. Someone would ask about weekend plans, then cringe when he said he wanted to enjoy the water at Fairview Beach. “That dirty place?” is how they’d respond, Cover said. “I want to correct that, if there’s anything we can do.” The group agreed there’s still no proof of what’s producing high levels

of waterborne bacteria that can cause eye and ear infections and gastrointestinal illness. But those gathered did agree that one drain pipe, which runs from the far end of a trailer park near State Route 218 to about 400 feet from a waterfront restaurant, warranted more research. “The concrete pipe does seem to be a big contributor, but we don’t really know what’s going on with it,” said James Beckley, a quality assurance coordinator with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality in Richmond.

---

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO**

Gas Drilling Debated on Radio Times WHYY Radio Times host Marty Moss-Coane spoke with a drilling critic and a drilling advocate on Thursday morning. If you missed it live, [you can listen here](#). Former DEP secretary under Gov. Rendell John Hanger talked about how drilling can be done safely. But writer and ecologist Sandra Steingraber says it’s an industry that can’t be regulated. This is never a conversation where the two opposing sides agree to disagree. But Marty steers these two well-informed guests through the often emotional dialogue, and has a real discussion on fracking, jobs, and the environmental consequences of drilling. Steingraber spoke at the Shale Gas Outrage rally on Thursday. John Hanger will be moderating a panel on natural gas powered cars at the Shale Gas Insight conference on Friday morning.

### **BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

Court Finds Power Plant Modifications Not ‘Routine’ Maintenance Reheater replacements at a Louisiana power plant do not qualify for a “routine” maintenance exception under the Clean Air Act, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana rules. The court says “no reasonable jury” could find the activities at issue to be routine under the multifactor test laid out by a federal appeals court in *Wisconsin Electric Power Co. v. Reilly*. The ruling allows EPA and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to pursue charges against Louisiana Generating LLC.

Greenhouse Permit Streamline Options Unlikely in Near Term, Official Says EPA will consider, but will not act immediately on, an advisory committee suggestion to propose options for streamlining the greenhouse gas permit process, the agency's top air official says. The EPA Clean Air Act Advisory Committee agrees to forward a report to the agency that makes no specific recommendations on streamlining methods but suggests that EPA propose options and solicit public comment. One option that has been discussed is a general permit for certain emission sources.

House Takes Up Bill to Block EPA Rules; Floor Vote Set for Today The House begins debate on a Republican-led package that would block greenhouse gas regulations and environmental rules affecting the coal industry, with a final floor vote expected today. The Stop the War on Coal Act of 2012 (H.R. 3409) combines five deregulatory bills, including four already passed by the House that would strip EPA of authority over greenhouse gas emissions and various mining activities.

Ozone Attainment Areas Plan Further Reductions Under Voluntary Program Twenty-five areas have joined EPA's voluntary program to help ozone attainment areas make further emissions reductions, an agency official says. The Ozone Advance program, launched in April, is partly intended to help the areas avoid being designated as nonattainment later, even if EPA tightens the standards, Laura Bunte of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards tells the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee.

Utility Official Questions Strict Enforceable Limit for Perchlorate A strict enforceable limit for perchlorate in drinking water might not be defensible, a water utility official says during an EPA webinar. Gary Lynch, with Park Water Co. in Downey, Calif., says technology to treat perchlorate exists, is improving, and is working, but there is

not enough science to set a strict level for the contaminant. Treatment also is expensive, he adds

EPA Issues Significant New Use Rules for 107 Chemicals EPA is publishing direct final significant new use rules for 107 chemicals. The agency used its authority under Section 5(e) of the Toxic Substances Control Act to order particular restrictions on eight of the chemicals, which it found to potentially pose risks to human health or the environment.

### ***ASSOCIATED PRESS***

Study: Virtually all Ala. tar balls from BP spill AUBURN, Ala. -- A new chemical analysis shows that virtually all the tar balls washing onto the Alabama coast are directly linked to the BP oil spill more than two years ago. The report released Thursday by Auburn University says that tar balls caused by the spill are hundreds to thousands of times more common than another type of asphalt-like tar deposit that's been in the Gulf for years. Researchers tested tar found on Alabama beaches after Hurricane Isaac last month. They found the material is from the BP well, and that certain chemicals in the tar have barely broken down since June 2010. The work was funded by the city of Orange Beach, the National Science Foundation and others.